

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 97-262-W/S - ORDER NO. 1999-441  
JUNE 23, 1999

IN RE:	Application of Harbor Island Utilities, Inc. for	)	ORDER GRANTING
	Approval of an Increase in its Rates and	)	INCREASE IN TAP FEES
	Charges for Water Service Provided to its	)	
	Customers in South Carolina.	)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the Petition of Harbor Island Utilities, Inc.(HIU) for approval of an increase in water tap fees for its future water customers on Harbor Island in Beaufort County, South Carolina.

By water service agreement entered into between Fripp Island Public Service District (FIPSD) and Harbor Island Utilities, Inc. in July 1986, HIU is required to pay \$300 to FIPSD for each water tap connect to the HIU water system. Effective March 24, 1999, FIPSD has increased its tap fees to HIU by \$150.00

In the instant matter, HIU is requesting Commission approval of an increase in the following water tap fees for future customers of HIU. For a ¾ inch meter, the tap fee would be increased from \$500.00 to \$650.00. For a 1 inch meter, the tap fee would be increased from \$850.00 to \$1,000.00. For a 1½ inch meter, the tap fee would be increased from \$1,000.00 to \$1,150.00. For a 2 inch meter, the tap fee would be increased from \$2,000.00 to \$2,150.00.

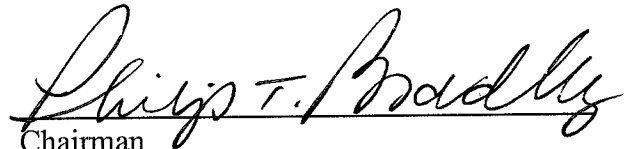
Pursuant to the instructions of the Commission's Executive Director, HIU published a Notice of Filing, one time, in a newspaper of general circulation in the utility's service area. No Protests or Petitions to Intervene were filed. HIU filed proof of publication.

Accordingly, HIU requests a waiver of hearing and an approval of the increase in tap fees as described above. S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-5-240 (G) (Supp. 1998) states that the Commission may allow rates or tariffs to be put into effect without a hearing upon Order of this Commission when such rates or tariffs do not require a determination of the entire rate structure and overall rate of return. We hold that the proposed increase in tap fees fits into this category, since we do not have to determine the entire rate structure or overall rate of return to consider the proposed increase. We may therefore rule without a hearing.

The increase in tap fees is merely a passthrough of monies being charged by FIPSD. Further, only future customers of the utility would be charged the new tap fee. Accordingly, we think that the proposed increase in tap fees is fair and reasonable, and should be approved as filed.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the  
Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director

(SEAL)